over 60% of the browser market. We will eventually develop a Netscape-based plug-in as well.

[0415] Both the Advanced Interface and ActiveX interface will be able to test server connections directly from the user's PC. This connection status information can be sent to Soniclsland.com (with the user's permission) to give Soniclsland.com valuable station reliability data.

[0416] The ActiveX-based interface will also be the basis for Soniclsland.com's stand-alone (Win32) application. This would be implemented as a simple Win32 wrapper around the ActiveX control.

[0417] The present invention has been described above with reference to a preferred embodiment. However, those skilled in the art having read this disclosure will recognize that changes and modifications may be made to the preferred embodiment without departing from the scope of the present invention. These and other changes or modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the present invention, as expressed in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for displaying a number of interactive navigation interfaces, each including a number of graphical symbols representing data sources, said system comprising:

a first presentation device having a display element;

a central server configured to process generic map data representing an interactive graphical navigation interface, said generic map data being formatted in accordance with a first protocol; and

a first presentation layer in communication with said central server, said first presentation layer being configured to convert said generic map data into displayable map data formatted in accordance with a second protocol compatible with said first presentation device.

2. A system according to claim 1, further comprising a map database in communication with said central server, said map database containing generic map data formatted in accordance with said first protocol.

3. A system according to claim 2, wherein said map database further contains data related to end user preferences.

4. A system according to claim 2, wherein said map database further contains data related to system administrator preferences.

5. A system according to claim 1, further comprising an applicationspecific database in communication with said central server, said application-specific database containing information related to content available to said first presentation device.

6. A system according to claim 5, wherein said application-specific database contains information related to at least one of the following: television program listings, radio program listings, streaming media files, software applications, uniform resource locators, and service provider features.

7. A system according to claim 1, wherein said first presentation layer is configured for compatibility with at least one of the following: a television broadcasting system, a wireless telephone system, a personal digital assistant system, and a web browser system.

8. A system according to claim 1, wherein said first presentation layer comprises:

an application server configured to receive said generic map data from said central server; and

a communication link for establishing communication with said first presentation device, said communication link conveying said displayable map data to said first presentation device.

9. A system according to claim 8, wherein said communication link comprises at least one of the following: a broadband cable connection, a satellite link, a wireless application protocol (WAP) link, a wireless personal digital assistant (PDA) protocol link, and a TCP/IP link.

10. A system according to claim 1, further comprising a communication link between said central server and said first presentation layer, said communication link conveying said generic map data to said first presentation layer.

11. A system according to claim 10, wherein said communication link conveys said generic map data via the TCP/IP suite of data transmission protocols.

12. A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second presentation device having a display element; and

a second presentation layer in communication with said central server, said second presentation layer being configured to convert said generic map data into displayable map data formatted in accordance with a third protocol compatible with said second presentation device.

13. A system according to claim 1, further comprising a producer tool application configured to communicate with said central server.

14. A method for displaying a number of active symbols representing data sources at a presentation device, said method comprising:

receiving a map request at a central server, said central server being configured to process map data representing interactive graphical navigation interfaces;

retrieving generic map data identified by said map request, said generic map data being formatted in accordance with a first protocol; and

converting said generic map data into displayable map data formatted in accordance with a second protocol compatible with a presentation device having a display element.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein said retrieving step retrieves said generic map data from a map database in communication with said central server.

16. A method according to claim 14, wherein:

said converting step is performed by an application server configured to receive said generic map data from said central server; and

said method further comprises the step of transmitting said generic map data from said central server to said application server.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein said transmitting step transmits said generic map data over a communication link using the TCP/IP suite of data transmission protocols.

18. A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of rendering said displayable map data on said display element.